

FACT SHEET

BASIC COMPREHENSIVE CERTIFICATES OF APPROVAL(AIR)

What is a Basic Comprehensive Certificate of Approval(Air)?

A Basic Comprehensive Certificate of Approval (Air) (Comprehensive CofA) is a single Certificate of Approval (Air) (CofA) that replaces existing CofAs and includes the addition of new or historically unapproved sources of emissions from the facility. Comprehensive CofAs are different from the traditional approvals issued by the ministry in that they have conditions that allow limited operational flexibility, and in doing so, Comprehensive CofAs reduce delay to industry associated with the traditional approvals process by allowing companies the opportunity to make some modifications to their facility without having to go through the formal application process for each and every process change. Comprehensive CofAs also improve the level of environmental protection of the approvals process by requiring companies to focus on demonstrating ongoing compliance with the air quality criteria imposed by the existing General Air Pollution Regulation (O. Reg 346).

Do I need a Comprehensive Certificate of Approval(Air)?

Section 9 of the *Environmental Protection Act* (the EPA) forms the basis for the Air Approval Program in Ontario. The wording of Section 9 is broad and there are few explicit exceptions, with the result that most industrial processes or modifications to industrial processes and equipment require approval. The Comprehensive CofA is the Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch (EAAB) preferred approval vehicle for the Air Approval Program.

In addition the Comprehensive CofA provides a number of benefits which include:

- ▶ ability to plan and to make production changes in a timely manner;
- ▶ a predictable and routine process that can be integrated into core business procedures;
- ▶ integration of ISO 14000 or other EMS programs into a single process to demonstrate compliance with Section 9; and
- ▶ improved focus on compliance with air quality criteria through the requirement for ongoing and facility-wide maintenance of an Emission Summary and Dispersion Modelling Report (ESDM Report).

What modifications can I make under a Comprehensive Certificate of Approval(Air)?

A Comprehensive CofA permits modifications such as process changes, de-bottlenecking or the addition of new equipment that would otherwise require Section 9 approval. Companies may make these modifications without the need to amend the Comprehensive CofA subject to the limits on operational flexibility specified on the Comprehensive CofA. The limits include a maximum production rate for the facility and a five-year renewal of limited operational flexibility conditions. The expiry date refers only to the limited operational flexibility conditions; the approval to operate the equipment approved by the CofA does not expire.

What are my requirements under a Comprehensive Certificate of Approval(Air)?

A Comprehensive CofA has specific conditions that outline the performance limits and documentation requirements with which the certificate holder must comply.

A Comprehensive CofA requires a company, as a minimum to:

- ▶ demonstrate ongoing compliance with O. Reg. 346 including the need to maintain a current Emission Summary and Dispersion Modelling Report (ESDM Report) that reflects the actual operation of the facility;
- ▶ maintain a log of the permitted modifications undertaken since the initial application;
- ▶ provide for public communication by making a summary of the ESDM Report available to the public;
- ▶ submit an annual Written Summary to the ministry;
- ▶ monitor the ministry's Standards Plan and incorporate the most up to date criteria into the ESDM Report; and
- ▶ address local and facility specific issues which are considered necessary based on conditions identified during the review of the application.

What steps will the ministry take to verify ongoing compliance?

The ministry has committed to an ongoing verification program to hold companies accountable to the requirements of the Comprehensive CofA. Failure to meet any condition on the Comprehensive CofA can result in the revocation of the conditions that provide limited operational flexibility and may result in prosecution. This program will allow the ministry to focus resources on facilities and projects that are environmentally significant and allow companies that are accountable to operate without direct ministry involvement.

Can I still get a Traditional Approval?

Yes, many companies have seen the benefits of the Comprehensive CofA and have chosen to apply for a one. However, companies can still apply for a traditional approval. Companies may wish to apply for a traditional approval for a specific project at a facility or as a means of consolidating existing approvals into one "Consolidated CofA."

How do I get a Comprehensive CofA?

Applications for a Comprehensive CofA and all required supporting information should be submitted to the EAAB and copied to the District Office. For more information on the general application requirements please contact:

Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch
Ministry of the Environment
2 St. Clair Avenue West, Floor 12A
Toronto, Ontario, M4V 1L5

Telephone: (416) 314-8001 or 1-800-461-6290
Fax: (416) 314-8452
or visit the Ministry website at: www.ene.gov.on.ca